October 19 – 25, 2023 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

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Vol. 138, No. 42

A Missing Man Table was placed at the front of the meeting room in Sumpter Township Hall just prior to the Sept. 26 meeting of the board of trustees.

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The City of Westland will use the $1 million grant awarded by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to fund the Annex at Nankin project.

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Sweet streets

Halloween holiday celebrations planned throughout communities

-Next week, angels, princesses, superheroes and maybe even a vampire or two will begin to appear on neighborhood streets throughout the area as Halloween celebrations begin.

While the fun has always included the sweet treats distributed to all ages from neighbors, civic organizations and at community events designed to keep the smallest costumed Dracula or Hulk safe, there are a few doubtful facts of little known value associated with the holiday.

The holiday dates back more than 2,000 years and started as a pre-Christian festival celebrating the last day of the fall harvest and spirits crossing over, since the Celts believed the veil between the living and spirit world grew thinnest at that time. People in Ireland, the United Kingdom and Northern France used to ward off ghosts by lighting sacrificial bonfires, and - you guessed it - wearing costumes to trick the spirits, according to History.com.

As the story goes, an Irish man named Stingy Jack tricked the devil and therefore was not allowed into heaven or hell - so he spent his days roaming the Earth carrying a lantern; hence the name "Jack of the Lantern." Jack-'o-lanterns did originate in Ireland, after all. Once Halloween became popular in America, people used local produce like pumpkins instead.

When the Irish fled the potato famine that devastated their country in the 1840s, they brought their Halloween traditions with them to American shores. The celebration spread across the country, until mischievous Halloween pranks reached an all-time high in the 1920s. Some believe community-based trick-or-treating became popular in the 1930s as a way to control the mischief.

As for the traditional candy corn, it was originally called "chicken feed." The sugary recipe has gone largely unchanged since the 1880s. Love 'em or hate 'em, you can't argue with that kind of consistency.

And speaking of sweets, Skittles remains the top selling and most wanted Halloween candy, according to CandyStore.com. The bite-sized fruit candies outranked M&M's, Snickers and Reese's Cups, according to 11 years of sales data. Although candy corn made the top 10, the tricolored treats also ranked among the worst Halloween candies, according to a CandyStore.com survey.

Only Christmas shoppers outspend Halloween. Consumers spent approximately $9 billion on Halloween in 2019, according to the National Retail Federation. The largest share goes toward candy, with 95 percent picking up the sweet stuff, 75 percent planning on buying decorations and 65 percent shopping for costumes.

Halloween celebrations are plentiful throughout the area. Here are those we found at press time, although there may be others added since then.

IN BELLEVILLE AND SUMPTER:

The annual Booville celebration in downtown Belleville is planned for 5 until 7 Tuesday Oct. 31. Local downtown businesses will be handing out candy to treaters.

Sumpter Township will again host the popular Trunk or Treat Halloween celebration in the parking lot of the Community Center.

The annual event is planned from 6 until 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 30. Those who wish to take part in distributing candy to costumed children need to make a reservation for a parking spot from which to hand out treats.

To reserve a parking spot, call (734) 256-4406. The best decorated trunk at the event will be awarded a prize, organizers said.

The community center is located at 23501 Sumpter Road.

The Sumpter Township Fire Department will host the annual 3-hour Trunk or Treat event beginning at 6 p.m. Thursday at the fire station. Organizers said the event will include candy, food and fun for everyone. The fire station is located at 20550 Sumpter Road in Belleville.

IN CANTON TOWNSHIP:

The Canton Trick or Treat Story Trail returns on Saturday, Oct. 21. Costumed visitors can join Canton Leisure Services and Canton Public Safety in Heritage Park for trick or treating along the story trail in select timeslots from 1-3 p.m. The feature story is appropriate for all ages, organizers said. Pre-registration is required for every trick-or-treater, regardless of age. Per-person fees are $10 for Canton residents and $13 for non-residents. For additional information or to register, visit www.cantonfun.org/register.

The Village Arts Factory, in partnership with Canton Leisure Services staff, has organized the Kids' Halloween Stroll at the Village Arts Factory from 4 until 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, with games, music, treats, decorations, and costumes. Trick or treaters can travel from studio to studio as they stroll among fun interactive stations located throughout the warehouse building, located at 50755 Cherry Hill Road. This event is geared toward younger trick-or-treaters ages 12 and younger and will feature non-scary festive seasonal music and decorations. In addition, a sensory-friendly timeslot is planned from 4 -5 p.m. All participants are encouraged to wear costumes. Pre-registration is required. Tickets are $5 and are available online only at www.cantonfun.org/register.

Tickets for these spooktacular events are available at www.cantonfun.org/register. For additional information, visit www.cantonfun.org or call (734)394-5460.

IN INKSTER:

A Halloween Haunted Festival is planned for 5 until 9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31 at the Booker T. Dozier Recreation complex, hosted by the Inkster Police Department.

There will be a Trunk or Treat event for children and a contest for the best decorated trunk. There will be a separate, special contest for the best decorated police trunk, organizers said. The event will include music, a raffle and a haunted locker room for the bravest in attendance. Cotton candy, popcorn, cupcakes, hot-dogs, chips and drinks will be served while supplies last, organizers said.

IN NORTHVILLE:

Trick or treating in Northville is planned for 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28.

The event, organized by the Northville Chamber of Commerce, will continue for 2 hours and 30 minutes and will take place in downtown Northville on Main Street between Wing and Hutton streets and on Center Street between E. Cady Street and Dunlap Street.

The event is free and open to the public.

The famous Northville skeletons have returned to downtown and are displayed throughout the area.

IN PLYMOUTH:

The annual celebration of spooky season is set for 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22 in downtown Plymouth.

Pumpkin Palooza, the traditional free Halloween themed event, usually brings hundreds of

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Spooky Season

FROM PAGE 1

children of all ages, including the young at heart, to downtown Plymouth streets for a day filled with costumes, games and trick-or-treating fun.

Many downtown streets will be closed during the event to ensure the safety of the event for children. Costumes are encouraged and several costume contests are planned, including a contest for pet Halloween costumes.

The event includes music, dancing and family-friendly entertainment.

The free event is organized by the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce. Sponsorships and vendor slots are still available. Learn more at plymouthmich.org.

IN ROMULUS:

The spookiest house decorations in Romulus will be awarded honors from the city this year.

City officials said they want to see residents and businesses in Romulus with the best outdoor Halloween decorations.

To be considered for the title of Spookiest House in Romulus, direct message one clear photo to the city Instagram or Facebook page @DowntownRomulus or email to cbradley@romulusgov.com.

Entries should also include the full name, phone number, and address of the entry with the photo. The public will vote for the spookiest decoration on the city Facebook and Instagram pages @DowntownRomulus. Voting will begin shortly after submission deadline and will end at 10 a.m. Oct. 31.The winner will be announced on the city social media pages and contacted separately. A map of Romulus Trick or Treat sites is below.

IN WAYNE:

HYPE Athletics will help Wayne residents mark the holiday with a spooktacular time at the City of Wayne Trunk or Treat event. The celebration will continue from 4:30 until 6 p.m. at Atwood Park in Wayne on Saturday, Oct. 28.

A special 4 p.m. opening time is planned for those with disabilities, organizers said.

The event will be filled with candy, fun and free treats and costumed treaters will follow a safe path through Atwood Park, weaving around the soccer field, all while collecting candy.

As an added bonus, cider and donuts will be served on a first come, first served basis, organizers said, and urged the costumed children to arrive with parents early to ensure there are plenty of goodies still available.

IN WESTLAND:

There will be a Truck or Treat event from noon until 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21 at Westland Historic Village Park at 857 Wayne Road. The event is free.

The 18th District Court parking lot will be the site of another Trunk-or-Treat event from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25. This is also a free event.

The court is located at 36675 Ford Road and this is a free family event designed for those 12 and younger. Entertainment and a DJ will be provided by The Dance Academy.

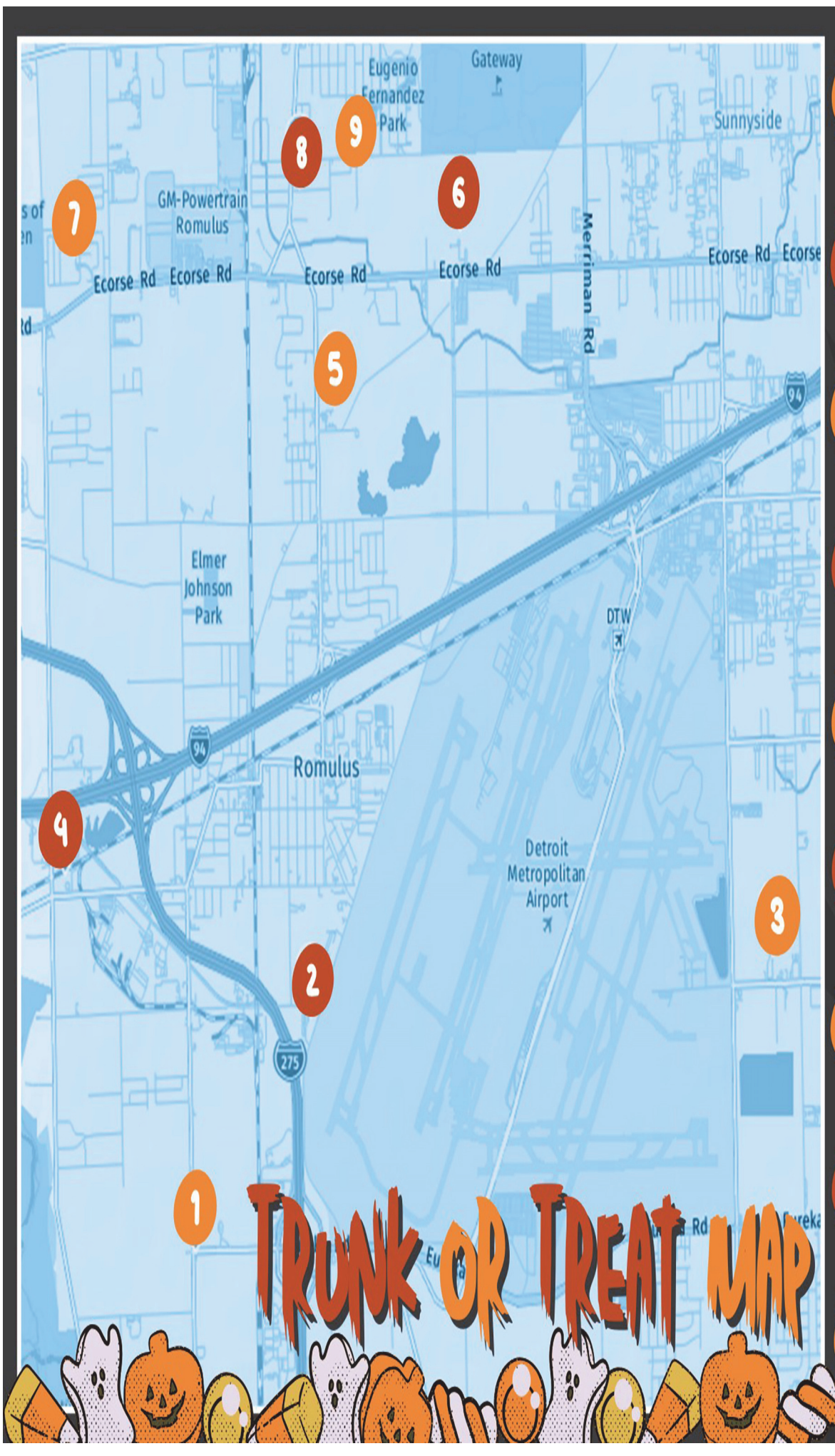
Costumes are encouraged, organizers said.

Another Truck or Treat is planned for 5 until 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26 hosted by the Volunteers of America at the Westland Thrift Store located at 34800 Warren Road in Westland. This event is also free. Visitors are urged to wear their costumes and can trick or treat around the parking lot with staff members.

A Westland Halloween Festival is planned from 1 until 3 p.m. this Saturday, Oct. 21 at Nankin Mills Park, 33275 Hines Drive in Westland.

Free event activities include: hayrides; inflatables; games; candy giveaway, entertainment featuring the Amazing Clark Puppet Show at 1:15 p.m. and magician Jim Abbot at 2 p.m.

There is no fee or pre-registration required for this free event. Costumes are welcome but not mandatory for the Halloween Festival, organizers said.



Romulus
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1 **Blue Sky**
October 14th, 6:30pm
15155 S Huron River Dr.

2 **RAC or Treat**
October 22nd, 5:00pm-7:00pm
35765 Northline Rd.

3 **Northfield Trucking**
October 22nd, 5:00pm-7:00pm
28800 Northline Rd.

4 **VFW Post 78**
October 29th, 2:00pm-5:00pm
39270 W Huron River Dr

5 **Romulus Early Childhood Center**
October 29th, 3:00pm-7:00pm
35200 Smith Rd

6 **Presence Church**
October 29th, 6:00pm-7:30pm
33200 Ecorse Rd

7 **West Village Estates**
October 30th, 6:00pm-8:00pm
7040 Shawnee Dr

8 **Pentecost Baptist**
October 31st, 5:00pm
35625 Vinewood

9 **Citizens Changing Communities & Romulus Civic League**
October 31st, 5:30pm-8:30pm
Corner of Beverly Rd. and Chamberlain St

ROMULUS - SUMPTER

Day of Remembrance marked by trustees

A special display was placed at the front of the meeting room in Sumpter Township Hall just prior to the Sept. 26 meeting of the board of trustees.

The Missing Man Table or Fallen Comrade Table was set to remind the public of service members who remain missing and those labeled as prisoners of war. Sumpter Township Manager Anthony Burdick and Vietnam veteran LeRoy Paige spoke to the board members and the public about the special remembrance celebration established to honor both Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing In Action (MIA). National POW/MIA Recognition Day has been established as the third Friday of every September to remember the 81,409 servicemembers who remain unaccounted for. The Missing Man table is a symbol of those service members who have not returned.

Burdick, a veteran of the Korean War, and Paige, a township resident, began a short Day of Remembrance ceremony prior to the scheduled board workshop session. Veterans in the audience introduced themselves while former township treasurer and current Planning Commissioner Vincent Warren presented a flag with the POW/MIA logo imprinted to the township. Warren made a formal request of the board members to raise the specialized flag on the Day of Remembrance next year.

Burdick explained that the National Day of Remembrance was initiated by servicemen during the Vietnam War. When the war ended, the tradition continued across the nation. Burdick explained the special significance of each item on the table.

> *The displays often include a lighted candle to reflect hope for the return of the lost, dead or alive.*

The display in the meeting room included a small round table covered with a white cloth symbolizing the pure intention with which the comrades honored served. The table was set for just one person, reflecting the vulnerability of one prisoner against his enemy. A single rose in a vase sat on the table symbolizing the blood that has been shed. The rose also represents the families and loved ones that have been left behind and the faith they uphold that their loved one will one day return. In addition, a slice of lemon was placed on a bread plate as a reminder of their bitter fate while a pinch of salt on the plate symbolizes the tears that have been shed by their families as they quietly wait.

A glass on the table was inverted to denote their inability to be with and toast with friends and families while a yellow ribbon on the table symbolizes the continued uncertainty of the fate of the POW/MIA men and women along with hope for their return and determination to account for them and bring them home.

The displays often include a lighted candle to reflect hope for the return of the lost, dead or alive.

The Bible on the table is there to represent the strength gained through faith to sustain families.

The empty chair symbolizes those missing.

Board members unanimously voted to display the flag next year.

"We will not forget," Burdick said.

Water advisory in effect

A second boil water advisory has been imposed in the City of Romulus.

The latest advisory, issued by the city on Tuesday, Oct. 17, advised residents who live between Huron River Drive and Inkster Road not to drink the water unless they first boiled it for one minute and then let it cool. The boiled or bottled water was recommended for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes or preparing food.

Bottled water is available for affected residents at the Romulus Fire Department Headquarters located at 28777 Eureka Road. Proof of residency within the impacted area is required.

"Crews are continuing to work to resolve the issue. We will provide notification as soon as the boil water alert has been lifted," officials said.

The first water advisory was issued by Director of Public Works Roberto Scappaticci last week in response to a water main break on Oct. 7. Residents were advised that the drop in water pressure in the area south of Eureka Road, west of Inkster Road and east of Huron River Drive could allow for bacterial contamination in the water system. The bacteria are generally not harmful, Scappaticci noted in an advisory to residents of the area.

The break was detected by pressure testing on Middlebelt Road south of Eureka but has now been repaired. That advisory was lifted Oct. 10 but the latest warning remains in effect.

In his advisory, Scappaticci explained that the advisory was issued last Tuesday as a precautionary action and that whenever a water system loses pressure for any significant length of time, precautionary measures are recommended by state authorities.

He added that staff members would be performing tests and flushing the water system to ensure the safety of the water.

Bottled water was distributed to residents affected by both the boil water advisories in Romulus last week. Firefighters handed out water from fire headquarters.

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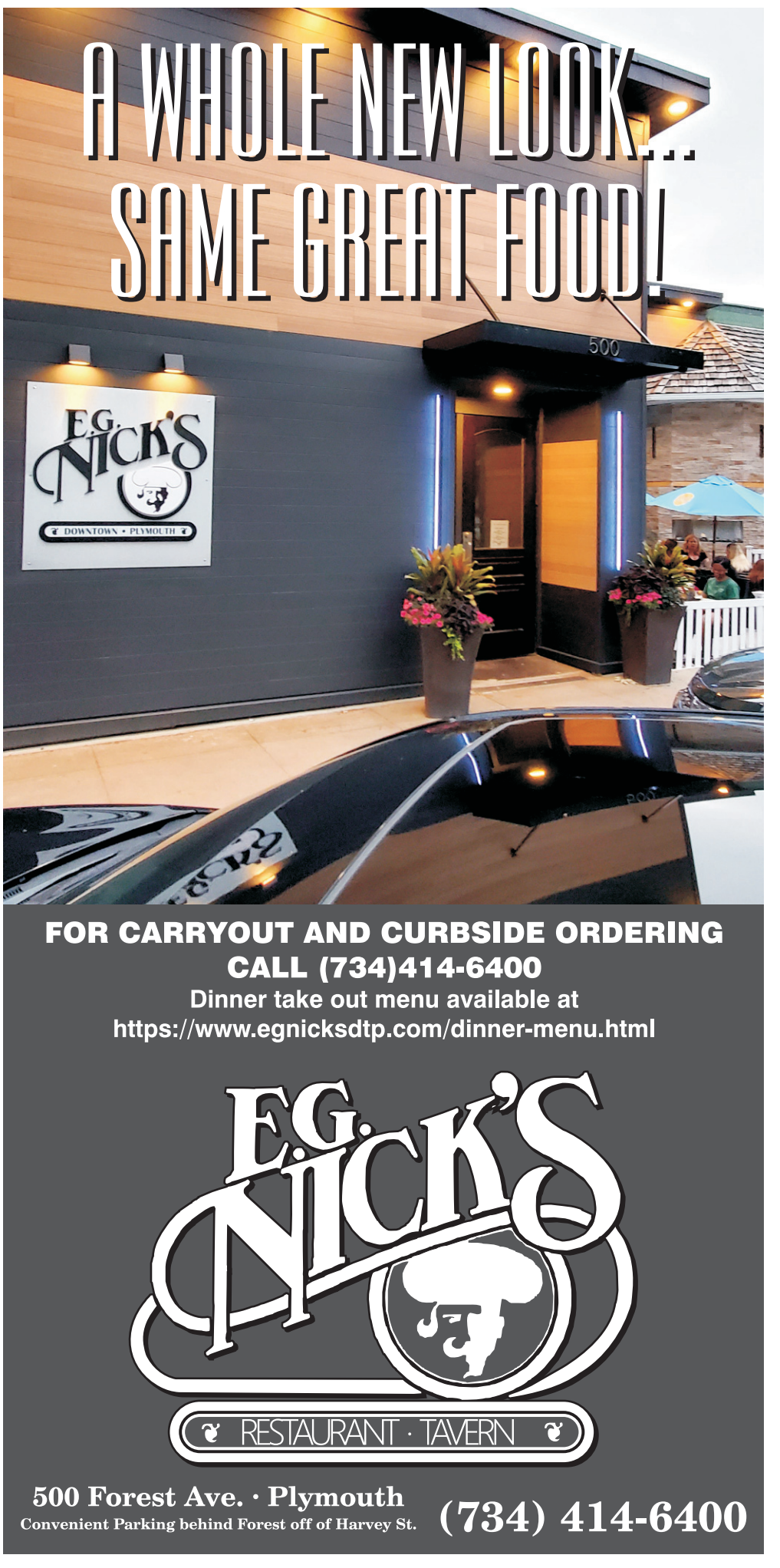


Inkster - Northville

28-year veteran township firefighter retires

Not every fire Capt. Chris Madzik put out throughout his 28-year career with the Northville Township Fire Department involved flames.

On one memorable run to Northville High School several years ago, he assisted a student who "was having a bad day, a really rough day" behavior wise, Madzik explained. He transported him in an ambulance to the hospital, where he learned the teen had ADHD.

"I talked to him the whole way there," said Madzik, who is a father of two, and immediately made a connection with the stressed student.

"When we got to the hospital, I grabbed the upset mom and I just said, 'You know, I have ADHD, too. And I'm okay. Your son is going to be okay. He's going to be fine. He just had a bad day. Everything is going to be okay.' Hopefully, I made their bad day a little better," Madzik recalled.

Madzik's concern for others is part of the legacy he left when he retired from duty Oct. 16, after nearly three decades of helping township residents.

It's one of the reasons, at 53, he is ready to pass the baton after being one of the first full-time township firefighters. He cares about the next generation of Northville Township firefighter/paramedics, he said.

"It's time to clear some space for other guys to grow and develop and advance their careers," he said. "I mean, I've been here more than 25 years. It's just time to let other people have their shot."

The thought of becoming a firefighter/paramedic didn't occur to Madzik until he was 25, fresh off a radio job in Washington, D.C. He returned to his hometown of Livonia and a friend of his sister's was a firefighter.

"I liked that every day was different," he said.

He joined Northville Township in November 1995 because they were offering free training for a three-year commitment to the department as a paid on-call firefighter. He became a full-time firefighter in April 1998. In 2002, he was promoted to sergeant, then to a lieutenant in 2003. He became a captain in 2017.

"At that time, there was the building boom going on," Madzik said. "Northville Township was one of the leaders in population growth, so I knew that the fire department was going to have to change and grow, and I wanted to be there when it did."

He said his public safety career has opened doors he never anticipated. About 12 years ago, he rediscovered his love of music. Growing up, he performed in choirs and musicals, but as an adult he put it aside until his wife urged him to get back in the spotlight, he explained. Currently, he sings tenor in Livingston County Choirs and in concerts for the Expressions Music Academy in Novi. He's frequently asked to sing the "The Star-Spangled Banner" at first responder nights for the Detroit Tigers, Red Wings and Pistons.

Northville Township Fire Department Capt. Chris Madzik, one of the first full time firefighters in the department, officially retired Oct. 16 after 28 years on the job.

"Singing at the Tiger game, I loved it," he said. "That was the first time I've ever sung in a venue that big where I had to worry about that much (sound) delay. I very much loved that experience."

Madzik's about to perform for a new crowd. He plans on working for Howell Public Schools as a paraprofessional who assists impaired children.

"I have a skill set that can be valuable for kids with physical and emotional impairments," he said. "In this job, I've always done very well helping kids needing specialized care, so I think that'll transfer into the classroom."

He will balance his new career with fun, too. He will spend more time with his wife, Julie, their 19-year-old daughter, Josie, and their 13-year-old son, Reed. He said he plans to fit in more golf, more music and hiking, too.

He'll also be thinking of his friends at the fire station.

"I'm going to miss the guys," he said. "I'm going to miss the day-to-day stuff. These are guys that I've been with well, some of them for most of my adult life."

The feeling is mutual, said Northville Township Fire Chief Brent Siegel. "With 28 years of service, Capt. Madzik has a lot of institutional and operational knowledge," he said. "He has contributed to the forward progression of the department and his presence will be missed."

Mother's insanity plea accepted in death of toddler

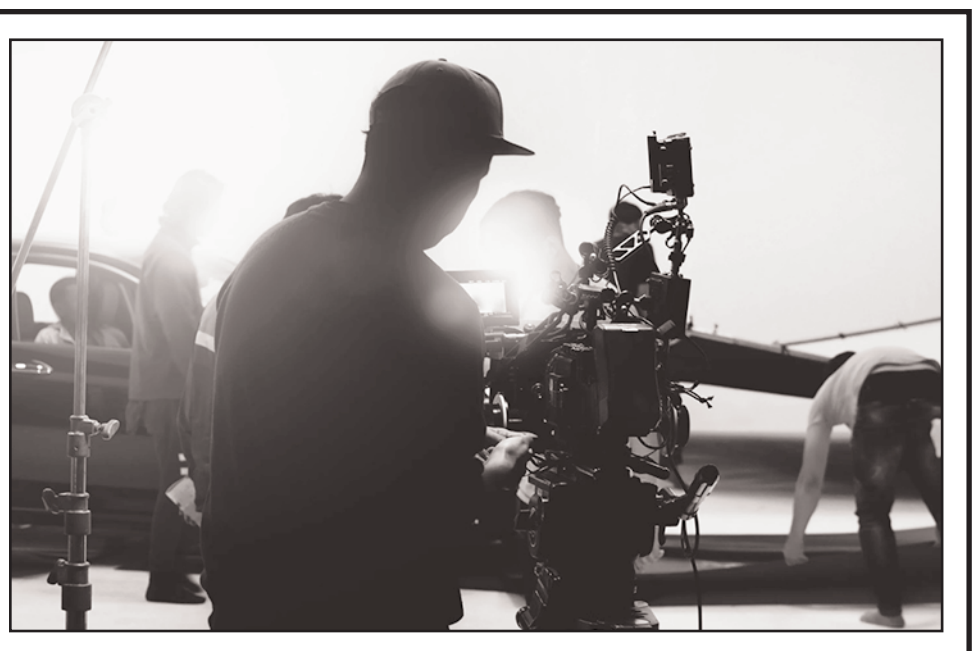
The Inkster mother found by police kneeling over her two severely injured children has been found not guilty of felony murder charges by reason of insanity.

Sara Boles, 47, was discovered at about 9 a.m. Jan. 1, 2022 by police officers who forced their way into her home on the 29500 block of Grandview Street in Inkster. Officers were responding to a requested welfare check. The officers discovered Boles in the bathtub of the home kneeling over her two small children whose throats had been slit, according to police reports. A knife was found in the tub with the severely injured 3-year-old girl and 1-year-old boy, according to police reports. Both children were transported for emergency medical care and the toddler later died of the injuries.

Boles reportedly struggled and resisted police efforts at the scene.

She entered a plea of not-guilty by reason of insanity to charges of felony murder, attempted murder, two counts of first-degree child abuse and resisting, assaulting or obstructing police. Circuit Court Judge Bridget Hathaway accepted the not guilty by insanity plea.

Boles was remanded to a forensic psychiatry center for an up to 60-day psychiatric examination. Following the findings of that examination, she could be committed to a psychiatric hospital for an indefinite amount of time. Any discharge from psychiatric custody would require the approval of an independent psychiatrist and a mental health care committee.



Lights, camera, action

Inkster resident Robert Turley, along with Dr. Leslie Small, the director of several Kevin Hart films, multiple Emmy award winning screenwriter Marcia McKenna and cinematographer Hamid Torabpour are filming a documentary about the City of Inkster. Turley is the co-producer of the film, titled For the Love of Inkster and said pre-production has been completed on the movie. Turley added that any money he might make from the movie will be donated to the We Rise organization in the city. He praised the group for the multiple efforts to help Inkster children and elders and said he hopes the community will support the film and continue to support the We Rise efforts.

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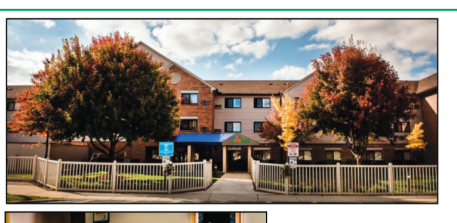
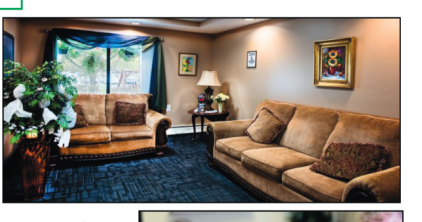

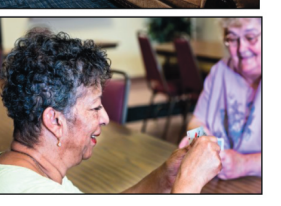

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2015 DODGE
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WAYNE - WESTLAND

$1 million to be used for Nankin annex project

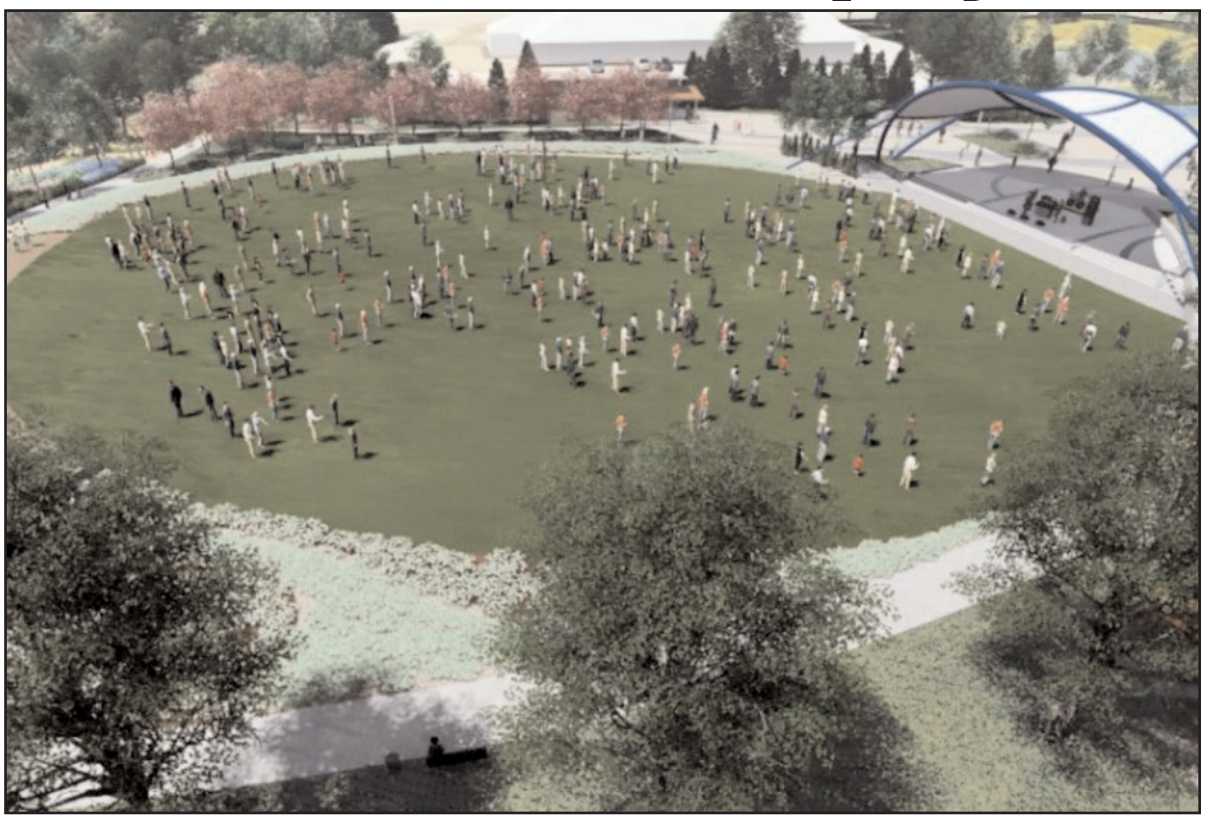
The City of Westland will use the $1 million grant awarded by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to fund the Annex at Nankin project. The grants were part of the state Revitalization and Placemaking Program and Westland was awarded the maximum amount possible under the program guidelines.

The program addresses the COVID-19 impact and community revitalization needs in Michigan communities by investing in projects that enable population and tax revenue growth through rehabilitation of vacant and blighted buildings and historic structures, rehabilitation and development of vacant properties, and development of permanent place-based infrastructure associated with social zones and traditional downtowns, outdoor dining, and place-based public spaces, according to the state guidelines.

"Today's grants underscore our commitment to the people, places, and projects that are integral to the growth of Michigan's economy," Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said in announcing the awards last week.

"These investments will help create vibrant places that attract and retain talent, add new housing options, enable business creation and attraction, and provide resources for Michiganders and our communities."

The "Annex at Nankin" will activate vacant property and act as a catalyst for spurring redevelopment and creating a more traditional downtown area for the community, officials said. Some key features of the project include both nature and adventure play areas, a pavilion and lawn area, gardens and boardwalks, which will allow users to interact with the space. Walking trails, an events plaza, and a play space that doubles as a sledding hill in the winter, are all amenities that have been worked into this design.



"I am thrilled that the MEDC believes in the vision that we have for the City of Westland's future and has committed to helping make it a reality," commented Mayor Michael P. Londeau. "I'm proud of the work that my Economic Development Team, led by Chief Business Development Officer Aubrey Merhib, has put in on this project and this grant. I believe that bright futures are built on bold actions, and this project is one of those great, bold actions that will deliver a brighter future for the City of Westland."

Packing it in

Seniors in the John Glenn High School Class of 2024 took a trip down memory lane last week and wore their favorite "kid" backpack to school. The students then donated the backpacks and additional school supplies to the Wayne-Westland Family Resource Center for students in need. The Family Resource Center can assist district families with school supplies, backpacks and many other items. To request service, access: https://forms.gle/kVPkPus3ttmMjQwo9

Granted

Court program awarded state funds

Judge Breeda O'Leary and the 29th District Western Wayne Regional Behavioral Treatment Court (RBTC) have been awarded a $231,500 grant to fund the area Mental Health Court. This grant, awarded by Michigan Mental Health Court Grant Program (MMHCGP) will play a pivotal role in enhancing the services and resources available to individuals struggling with mental health challenges within the western Wayne community, officials said.

The 29th District Court RBTC Program is dedicated to addressing the unique needs of individuals involved in the criminal justice system who are grappling with mental health issues, according to a prepared statement from the court. "It operates on the principles that by providing appropriate treatment, support, and guidance, we can break that cycle of incarceration for these individuals, reduce recidivism, and foster a healthier and safer community," the statement continued.

"This grant will have a profound impact on the lives of individuals who find themselves at the intersection of mental health challenges and the legal system," the statement concluded.

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Canton - Plymouth

Planners reject proposed project at Sparr's site

The proposed growth of an apartment complex at the site of Sparr's Greenhouse and Nursery in Plymouth Township hasn't flourished with planners or the public.

The proposed building would be constructed on the 5-acres at the corner of Joy and Lilley roads where Sparr's Greenhouse and three houses have stood for five decades. The budding plan which includes 68 units in three apartment buildings, was first presented to township planning commission about six months ago by property owners Mohammad Nawwas and Naji Kahala. Planning commissioners at that time suggested multiple changes to the initial plan which would include a smaller, renovated Sparr's Flower Shop.

Nawwas and Kahals, along with architect Scott Wright of D.S. Wright and Associates, presented their enhanced plan to members of the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees Oct. 11 seeking rezoning for the site.

> *Residents told the trustees hey were concerned about traffic in the area.*

While the new plan now meets the requirements for rezoning, neighboring property owners were on hand to voice objections to the proposed loft apartments.

Residents told the trustees they were concerned about traffic in the area which they described as already congested. Nearby subdivision residents expressed their concern about the three-story building impacting their privacy.

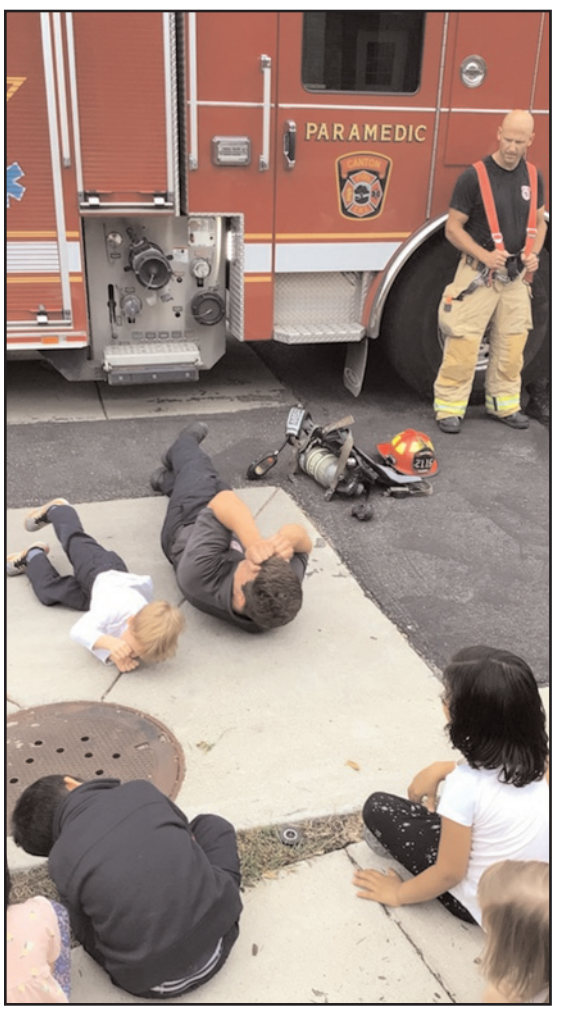
Nawwas and Kahals, told the trustees they have made every accommodation recommended by the planning commissioners and described the project as upscale lofts and businesses.

Planning commissioners were not in favor of the proposed fast-food drive-thru restaurant which has been eliminated from the new plans.

The township board members have the final decision regarding the proposed construction at the site which must be presented to the planning commission again before returning to the board of trustees for consideration.

Safety lessons

October is Fire Prevention Month and members of the Canton Township Public Safety Department stopped by Primrose Academy last week for a special visit with preschool and preK classes. The firefighters taught the children about 911, stop, drop, and roll, and what to do in case of emergency. The firefighters also demonstrated their equipment and showed the students how they gear up to respond to a fire.



Diwali event is set

Canton Township will celebrate the triumph of good over evil during the Third Annual Diwali Community Celebration this month. Canton Leisure Services is again partnering with several community groups to present this special event, which is an Indian cultural celebration of lights that symbolizes the "victory of light over darkness." Sponsors this year include miindia.com, Schoolcraft College, and Piysh Dave Realtor.

Michigan Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II will serve as the keynote speaker for this special event, which is open to the public. Program activities planned include Indian cultural performances, music, and dancing, as well as a children's activity and free henna designs. Indian snacks will also be available to purchase, and vendors will be on hand offering various merchandise. The community celebration will culminate with a short fireworks display.

"Canton is delighted to host the Third Annual Diwali Community Celebration as a tribute to the diversity and multicultural fabric of the Canton community," said Laura Mortier, recreation supervisor. "By presenting this type of event, we hope to foster a deeper understanding and awareness of this 10,000-year-old Indian tradition within our community by providing this excellent opportunity to experience the Indian culture."

Diwali is perhaps the most well-known Indian festival. The word Diwali means 'rows of lighted lamps' and is known as the festival of lights because houses, shops, and public places are decorated with small earthenware oil lamps called diyas.

There is no admission fee to attend this special event which will take place from 6 until 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27 at the Summit on the Park located at 46000 Parkway in Canton. For more information, visit www.cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5460.

WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE

Eric R. Sabree - Wayne County Treasurer

Property tax payment plans are available now!

Interest Reduction Stipulated Payment Agreement (IRSPA)

This payment plan reduces the interest rate from 18% to 6% for eligible taxpayers. To sign up, you must own and live in your home, and have a Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) and ID that proves residency.

Distressed Owner Occupant Extension (DOOE)

This program is not available to everyone. If you own and live in the property, and are suffering financial hardship you may qualify for this program. Proof of ownership, occupancy, and hardship are required.

Stipulated Payment Agreement (SPA)

Available to everybody, this plan allows a taxpayer to pay taxes pursuant to a payment schedule. The plan will avoid foreclosure provided that payments are submitted per the agreed upon schedule.

Pay As You Stay Payment Agreement (PAYSPA)

Only for those who have first applied for their local municipality's Poverty Tax Exemption (PTE) and received an approval. Once notified by your local Assessor's office and deemed eligible, our office will mail you a notification letter with your Reduced Amount Due. You will have the option of paying a lump sum (additional 10% off) or enrolling into a PAYSPA.

Many of these plans are available online at treasurer.waynecounty.com!

For more information, email WCTOPaymentPlans@waynecounty.com or call (313) 224-5990.